29 January 1958

Mr. Andrews:

I will not be able to be here this afternoon, Mr. Dulles, so I would just like to say that I certainly enjoyed your briefing. This is the first time that I have had the pleasure of hearing the CIA, and I think you are doing a grand job.

29 January 1958

Mr. Whitten:

May I make a statement? I would just like to say that I do appreciate the frank manner in which this matter has been presented. I feel very much better about it. I believe that with the record that you have shown here you should welcome an opportunity to report to this committee and to the Congress each and every year to show what you are doing. I do believe it is entirely wholesome from the operations of our committee to have this information. For the first time we have some indication, as I see it, of the firmness of your information in regard to these various things. I think that should be the starting point of our job in dealing with such a big segment of the national defense.

29 January 1958

Mr. Wigglesworth:

Mr. Chairman, I think the Director and Dr. Scoville and Mr. Amory have given us a very fine and helpful presentation in the last two days and, incidentally, have furnished strong evidence of the good job that the CIA is doing. I have had that opinion for a long time personally based on observation both at home and abroad. We could sit here and ask questions with profit for days, but as far as I am concerned I think that the aspects of the picture from the standpoint of the problem which is directly before this committee have been well covered and, as far as I am concerned, I do not propose to inquire at any length. In fact, I have only one or two questions which I would like to ask at this time.

29 January 1958

Mr. Ford:

Mr. Director, I would like to echo the comments made by the other members with reference to the quality of the job which the CIA is doing.

29 January 1958

Mr. Boyle:

Mr. Director, I assume that a lot of the preliminary questions or the background questions that were put to you during the last couple of days were directed to you in my favor more than in most of them because I am one of the four new Members and I am deeply appreciative of what the Chairman has been trying to accomplish. I for one want you to know that I have a very open mind and I am impressed by you and your team.

29 January 1958

Mr. Mahon:

With respect to the effectiveness of Central Intelligence Agency during the early years and to date, I raised these questions for the purpose of trying to clarify the picture with respect to the part that Central Intelligence has played, feeling that Central Intelligence has done some excellent reporting throughout its existence.

29 January 1958

Mr. Mahon:

I realize, as I think we all do, we have all made mistakes as individuals and as Government agencies and I am sure the Central Intelligence Agency has made many mistakes. I wanted for you to build yourself up before this committee to the stature to which I think you are entitled and the fact that you have not been before the full committee heretofore and the fact that you cannot fight back in the papers and you must keep quiet generally speaking, so far as the American public is concerned, has caused you not to be considered in the proper perspective by some American citizens.

29 January 1958

Mr. Mahon:

I have seen that information, and I think Central Intelligence did a good job there. I shall ask some clerk to phone the Library of Congress and get the exact quote by the President in his speech, which can be done in a very few minutes. Surely somebody has that.

(Re Suez Canal information furnished by Agency.)

29 January 1958

Mr. Mahon:

Let me proceed, please. I am sure it is correct they did not give us officially any information, Mr. Director, but let us postpone further discussion until we get the exact wording. As I see it, Central Intelligence was on the ball with respect to that matter in a very good way.

(Re Suez Canal information furnished by Agency.)

29 January 1958

Mr. Mahon:

In other words, this is old hat to some of us, and it does not make reading which is too good, in a way, but I felt that the whole panel would like to know that this organization, regardless of who has been in power, has been active and has been certainly reasonably successful in intelligence work.

Don't go too deep into it.

29 January 1958

Mr. Sheppard:

It is my impression after association with this work, by indirection intermittently of course over a period of years, that you are playing a very vital role, you in conjunction with the State Department, in the formation of conclusions insofar as the military strategy and approaches are concerned and in the general picture a very vital one. In fact, I do not know any other Department of Government in my opinion that is more vital to the basic information and the end results as that which flows through those two Departments, to wit, the State Department creating certain conditions by agreements here and there and furthermore the intelligence you people pick up through your sources. They are vital to the Government and its conclusions.

From the record you have submitted in my presence and to other Members of the committee there is no question in my mind but what the information you have in its entirety has been made available to the proper authority of government at all times irrespective of whether Democrat or Republican. I have seen no differential or withholding aspect.

29 January 1958

Mr. Norrell:

During the past two or three days, Mr. Dulles, you have done a marvelous job in transmitting information to us from the CIA. I want to congratulate you for that. I have more confidence in the CIA than I had yesterday, the day before, and a year ago. I think you are doing the best job you can in the circumstances. You are transmitting information.

28 January 1958

Mr. Mahon:

I want to ask, is this the kind of presentation you have made to the National Security Council, in part, or not?

Mr. Dulles:

Yes, sir.

Mr. Mahon:

Have you given us the best over-all picture that you are capable of giving, generally speaking, Mr. Director?

Mr. Dulles:

Yes, sir.

Mr. Mahon:

I find it very interesting and I think you and your associates have done a good job in presenting the picture from your viewpoint.